

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A silicon carbide porous body comprising silicon carbide particles which are aggregates and metallic silicon which is a bonding material, bonded together in such a manner that pores are retained between the silicon carbide particles and/or between the silicon carbide particle and metallic silicon,

wherein an amorphous oxide phase containing oxides of silicon, aluminum, and strontium ($\text{SrO}:\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3:\text{SiO}_2$) in a ratio of (1.0:0.1:1.0) to (1.0:1.0:3.0) in terms of amount ratio (molar ratio) of each substance is buried in at least some of fine pore portions having a minimum distance of $10 \mu\text{m}$ or less between the surfaces of the silicon carbide particles or between the surfaces of the silicon carbide particle and metallic silicon among the pores, and

a ratio of a total volume (pore volume of the fine pore portion) of portions in which the oxide phase is not buried among the fine pore portions is 20% or less with respect to a total volume (total pore volume) of portions in which the oxide phase is not buried among the pores including the fine pore portions.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Previously Presented) The silicon carbide porous body according to claim 1, wherein a plane image obtained by photographing a cut face of the silicon carbide porous body cut with a predetermined plane is subjected to an image analysis process, and divided into a specified pore portion originating from the portion in which the oxide phase is not buried in the pore including the fine pore portion, a specified silicon carbide particle portion originating from the silicon carbide particle, a specified metallic silicon portion originating from metallic silicon, and a specified oxide phase portion originating from the oxide phase, and a relation of the following equation (1) is satisfied by a total length (contact length) L

OK TO
ENTER
KEG 4/07